

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION

31

July 29, 2003

Continued from July 22, 2003

FROM: KENT PAXTON, CHILDREN'S NETWORK OFFICER
Children's Network

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR UNIQUE FAMILY GROUP HOME

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Letter of Support to the State Department of Social Services Foster Care Rate Setting Bureau for the Unique Family Group Home.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Approval of this item will provide a letter of support for the Unique Family Group Home, enhancing San Bernardino County's continuum of care. The Unique Family Group Home will provide residential care for boys age 9 – 17 at Rate Classification Level (RCL) 11.

The San Bernardino County Departments of Children's Services, Behavioral Health, and Probation are responsible for meeting the residential treatment needs of minors in their care. Many of these minors need specialized residential treatment services which are ordered by the Juvenile Court or are required by the Education Code. Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 11462, the California Department of Social Services Foster Care Rate Setting Bureau requires a letter of support from the placing or host County prior to allowing a group home to receive reimbursement under the RCL structure.

On March 21, 2000, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Children's Policy Council to make group home recommendations to the Board. Additionally, the Board approved a protocol (entitled the Standard Criteria) which establishes the procedure for making such recommendations to the Board. The protocol is based on an annual needs assessment performed by the Children's Policy Council and provides a current assessment of the impact of new group homes on law enforcement jurisdictions, school districts or special education local planning areas, hospitals and other major medical providers, and mental health treatment resources. The current Group Home Needs Assessment was approved by the Board on July 16, 2002.

The State classifies group homes into RCLs based on types of service, levels of staffing, and treatment programs. The lowest RCL is 1, and the highest is 14. On June 25, 2003, the Children's Policy Council voted to recommend a letter of support for Unique Family Group Home to provide care at RCL 11.

Page 1 of 2

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED(CONSENT CALENDAR)

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

MOTION	<u>MOVE</u> 1	<u>AYE</u> 2	<u>AYE</u> 3	<u>ABSENT</u> 4	<u>SECOND</u> 5
--------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------	--------------------	--------------------

J. RENEE BASTIAN, CLERK OF THE BOARD

BY _____

DATED: July 22, 2003

31

ITEM 015

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR UNIQUE FAMILY GROUP HOME**July 22, 2003****Page 2 of 2**

The Unique Family Group Home operated from 2001 until the present as a State Licensed residential treatment provider for the Inland Regional Center, serving children with developmental disabilities. Reimbursement was provided by the State Department of Developmental Services under a structure separate from the RCL structure. Due to low referral numbers, the Unique Family Group Home has redesigned its program to serve boys age 9 to 17 who are in Foster Care and have special needs related to mental health. Unique Family Group Home has a 6-bed facility in Ontario and will provide residential treatment services for children who have emotional and/or behavioral problems related to histories of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, inadequate parenting or supervision, and relationship concerns. The primary source of referrals will be the San Bernardino County Department of Children's Services.

This program is an important component in the County's system of residential treatment for children who would otherwise be experiencing multiple placement failures, lengthy inpatient hospitalizations, out-of-county placement, or long-term institutionalization at the State Hospital. Approval of this item brings potential cost savings to be realized through local placement of eligible minors at the appropriate level of care rather than out-of-county or higher-level placement.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: The Children's Policy Council has reviewed and approved these recommendations on June 25, 2003. This item was reviewed and approved by County Counsel (Ruth Stringer, Deputy County Counsel) on July 3, 2003, HSS Finance (Kris Letterman, Administrative Manager) on July 8, 2003, and the County Administrative Office (Gary Morris, Administrative Analyst) on July 3, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The recommended actions will not result in additional local costs. The RCL 11 rate per child is \$5,234 per month. For six beds, the monthly total would be \$31,404. This cost is divided between the County and State or Federal Foster Care funding, depending on how the youth is classified. The County's historical share of cost has been 42%, or \$2,198 per month per child. Adequate appropriations and revenue have been included in the FY 2003/04 Foster Care budget.

Cost Reduction Review: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the Department's proposal and recommends this action based on the potential cost savings of having eligible minors in appropriate residential care locally as opposed to out of county or at costlier levels of care.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): ALL

PRESENTER: Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer, Children's Network
(909) 387-8966